The Southern PATRIOT

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High Court Hears 3 Integration Views

The U. S. Supreme Court this month heard arguments from NAACP attorneys, from Southern states and from the Department of Justice on how to implement its decree outlawing segregation in the public schools.

The NAACP urged "forthwith" action, with September, 1956, as the latest possible deadline for completion of integration.

Southern attorneys were opposed to the setting of any time limit; they did not offer any plan for compliance and they did not want the court to establish any plan.

Federal lawyers also opposed a deadline or a uniform plan. They suggested that the lower courts take over the implementation, supervising the work of local school boards and making progress reports back to the Supreme Court.

Under the Justice Department scheme, school boards would have 90 days to draw up a plan for achieving integration "as soon as feasible." If the lower court approved the plan, it would go into operation. The boards would make regular reports. If at any point the action taken becomes unacceptable, the court would then order complete and immediate integration at the start of the next school term.

The present session of the Supreme Court ends May 31, but the Court may not make its final ruling before next fall.

Oklahoma Moves Toward Integration

In a statewide election on April 5, Oklahoma voters approved 3 to 1 a constitutional amendment paving the way for an integrated school system.

In addition to providing for a single tax set-up for all schools to replace the old dual system of taxation for two school systems, the amendment paves the way for building funds and probably higher teacher salaries.

Bearing the support of Gov. Raymond Gary and most school leaders, the amendment was presented as a financial rather than race issue. But Roscoe Dunjee, Editor of the **Black Dispatch**, described the proposal as "a sane and sober attempt to comply with the Supreme Court decision regarding segregation."

JAMES S. CARTER
Principal, Phoenix Union High School

WILLIAM J. L. WALLACE
President, West Virginia State College

Houston Rally To Hear Reports From Communities With Integrated Schools

"What are the problems of segregation and how can they be solved?" will be the subject of a panel discussion at the Southwestern Regional Conference on Integration in Houston, Texas on May 17.

The panel will include prominent educators from communities where integration has recently been adopted. Participants will be Mr. James S. Carter, principal of Union High School in Phoenix, Ariz.; Mr. W. N. Sellman, assistant superintendent of schools in charge of secondary education, St. Louis, Mo.; and Dr. William J. L. Wallace, president of West Virginia State College.

Also on the program for the all-day session at the YWCA, 1320 Rusk Street, are meetings of commissions on the following problems:

I. Community assets available for integration.

II. How can the churches help?

III. Planning for integration.

IV. What can we do as individuals?

V. What can youth do?

VI. Integration in areas other than education.

The reports of these commissions will be presented to the conference at a general meeting.

Registration is set for 9 a.m. There will be lunch and dinner for the delegates. The conference will adjourn after the panel discussion, which begins at 7:30 p.m. A graphics and materials exhibit, arranged by Miss Dolores A. Potts, Program Director of Teen-Age Dept., Downtown Branch, YWCA, will be on display.

Chairman of the Houston commtitee on arrangements is the Rev. Richard E. Hayes, Exec. Sec'y., Texas Conference Board of Education of the Methodist Church. Mrs. Lulu B. White, 2620 Tuam Ave., Houston, is secretary of the conference. All interested in attending should write her for lunch and dinner reservations.

The Houston rally is one of several regional meetings to be held in advance of the Southwide Conference on Integration slated for Atlanta November 21. 22. 23.

Alabama Case To Test Jim Crow Trolleys

A test case that may result in the outlawing of Jim Crow urban transportation is developing in Montgomery, Alabama. Because the segregated trolley or city bus is not involved in interstate transportation this ugly and impractical custom has largely evaded legal challenge.

The racial ordinance in Montgomery requires Negro passengers to fill city buses from back to front, whites from front to back. On March 2, returning from high school, 15-year-old Claudette Colvin was obeying that statute. Seated next to her was a pregnant woman. But right ahead of them the white section was all filled and some were standing; there were no seats to the rear.

The driver stopped the bus and demanded that Claudette "give" him that seat. She refused, declaring that she had paid her dime and "had no right to move." He left the bus and phoned the police. Within minutes a squad car and a motorcycle patrolman drove up. The police—three of them—then demanded that the pregnant woman move. She protested, declaring that her condition made her sick when she stood. A negro man in the back was made to give up his seat to her.

But Claudette remained, insisting on her rights. So the police dragged her from the bus and took her in handcuffs to the city hall for booking and then lodged her in the city jail—all in direct violation of the statute which declares that juveniles shall always be taken to juvenile court and never, under any circumstances, lodged with adult offenders.

She was tried under the state transportation law which gives the driver of a public vehicle power to "reassign passengers to another seat, section or division," found guilty, and placed on probation.

The Negro community of Montgomery, led by the local chapter of the NAACP, is ready to appeal the issue to the highest courts on constitutional grounds. In previous tests of this sort, state judges have often reversed the verdict against the defendant in order to protect the law in question from federal scrutiny. But in Claudette's case such a ruling would leave the bus line and others open to countersuits.

Delaware Court Stalls Integration at Milford

The Supreme Court of Delaware has declared that the Milford board of education had "no legal right" to admit Negro students to a previously all-white school last fall.

The ruling said that the U. S. Supreme Court edict of last May 17 did not require immediate compliance.

Thus a temporary victory is acceded to the racist forces which fomented the disturbances that shocked the nation. On the other hand, Bryant Bowles, ringleader of the "National Association for the Advancement of White People," has been found guilty on two counts of violating the state's school-attendance laws and fined $300 on each, with the option of serving six months in jail. Bowles has become a resident of Milford, scene of his first and only triumph.

The April issue of **Redbook** magazine discusses the Milford episode in article entitled "The Town That Surrendered to Hate." The author declares that the worst offense of all committed there was showing "Milford's youth how their elders can meet a problem with hate and violence instead of good will and good sense."

In Louisiana, Federal Judge J. Skelly Wright reinstated this month his injunction demanding that Louisiana State University admit A. P. Tureaud, Jr., a Negro, as an undergraduate student.

Wright's previous decree to this effect had been stayed by the federal court of appeals in 1953. The case was returned to his jurisdiction earlier this year "in light of conditions that now prevail."

In another case, Federal Judge Herbert W. Christenberry ordered Southeastern Louisiana College at Hammond to admit Negro students.

These decisions bring to four the number of state-supported institutions now accepting Negroes as undergraduates. All of the cases were handled by A. P. Tureaud, NAACP attorney.

New York Law Halts Ghetto Trend

The New York legislature has passed the first state law expressly forbidding discrimination in housing financed with the assistance of public mortgage insurance.

On April 2, the legislators voted to forbid builders who receive FHA, VA, or other governmental backing to place racial or religious barriers on the rental or sale of multiple dwellings or individual homes that are offered for sale in groups of ten or more.

The National Committee against Discrimination in Housing has appealed to President Eisenhower to bar segregation in all federally-assisted housing.

Walter White

No individual was better known as an advocate of human equality than Walter White. He spent his adult life in the fight against segregation and discrimination. He carried that battle from lynch town to White House, applying his journalistic talents, his personal magnetism, his administrative skill to the problems of four decades.

White was born in Atlanta in a period historians have described as the nadir of Negro life in America; the chronology of his activities forms a chart of the progress the Negro has made in the intervening years.

The Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation in the public schools is Walter White's best eulogy.

Anti - Segregationist Minister Fired

The minister of a Baptist church near Parkin, Arkansas, has reported that he was dismissed from his post after delivering a sermon opposing segregation.

The Rev. Ed Jones said last month that he was officially reprimanded by church deacons when he discussed the subject from the pulpit a year ago.

"Three weeks ago I preached on the subject again . . . Then at a special meeting of the church I was given the choice of not preaching on the subject or being dismissed as pastor.

"A committee of deacons told me they were happy to have me as pastor except that I must refrain from preaching on the theme that segregation is un-Christian.

"I told them I could not do that. It was something I felt I had to say, that segregation in the church is sinful and not Christian. The vote was 43 to 7 for dismissal."

This incident recalls the ouster last year in Shellman, Georgia, of another Baptist minister who expressed similar views, the Rev. Henry A. Buchanan.

It seems in order that special provisions be made for the assistance of gallant clergymen who stake their careers to assert religious principle in the most hazardous of situations. The fund set up for victims of Mississippi's Citizens Councils suggests an example. Perhaps various denominational or interdenominational groups should establish a similar fund for ministers and laymen who suffer reprisal for being Christians.

LETTERS

To the Editor:

The Supreme Court of the United States has turned down my petition for a hearing of the Arthur Waitus case and Waitus is scheduled to die on April 15. I came into that case after the second trial . . . and I am very much disturbed about it because it appears to me that Waitus did not get a fair trial.

He is accused of having killed a white woman in an attempt to rape in Georgetown, S. C. The court-appointed attorneys successfully moved for a change of venue on the ground that he could not get a fair trial.

When the case was moved to Marion County they were overruled by the Judge when they complained that no Negroes were on the grand jury which indicted him. The Supreme Court of South Carolina granted a new trial because it was convinced that Negroes had been systematically excluded. The case went back to trial, but the attorneys did not ask for a change of venue and it was tried at Georgetown.

There was one Negro on the grand jury and one Negro sat on the trial jury. By consent of counsel the trial judge kept the Negro juror separated from the white jurors except when they were sitting in the court room. He ate alone and slept alone. He later made an affidavit for us that he voted for conviction because he feared for his job and safety. He later repudiated this . . .

Justice for the Negro in the South is a long way off, in my humble opinion.

JOHN BOLT CULBERTSON
Greenville, S. C.

EDITOR'S NOTE. As a grim appendix to Mr. Culbertson's disturbing letter let us add that Department of Justice figures showed 82 executions carried out by civil authorities in 1954—an increase of 20 over the previous year. The racial breakdown was: 38 white, 43 Negroes, and one American Indian.

Most of the increase came from the Southern states.

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To the Editor:

. . . The point occurs to me that "it is in the best interest of the South" . . . to see that *white* children have an education which prepares them for the world as is, which therefore includes association on an equal basis with Negroes.

Anyone who has grown up in the South and gone to work in the North knows that for a Southerner this easy equal association has to be learned on jobs. Or at least it had to be on the sort of jobs I've held, in the publishing business and the theater, where equality, more or less, has been accepted for a long time.

Young people from segregated schools are only half-educated; it's as if you insisted on convents or "finishing schools" for young ladies, instead of coeducational universities. Knowing only half the human race is a handicap that can be overcome, but it's a handicap. Just as an illustration, heaven help a young Southern author who wandered into Random House and high-hatted or patronized the Negro girl receptionist there in the presense of Bennett Cerf. Or the ingenue who objected to letting the star dressing room go to Ethel Waters.

Not a moral point, certainly, it still seems to me that in practical appeal, particularly to the younger generation, this is important. Southerners don't like to be naive and unsophisticated and unprepared for life.

WILLSON WHITMAN
Southern Pines, N. C.

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To the Editor:

The annual Intercollegiate basketball tournament is held at Wesleyan each year. With Negroes in the tournament for the first time, everything went well. West Virginia State is seeking membership in the State Conference and stands an excellent chance of being admitted.

At the *Association for Higher Education* annual meeting, to be held at W. Va. Tech. on April 1 and 2, we have a panel discussion on the topic "The First Year of Integration". I am to discuss the *social implications*. Dr. Wallace will also be on the panel.

Sincerely yours,
JAMES L. HUPP, *Professor of Education*
W. Va. Wesleyan College

NOTE TO SPONSORS OF THE SOUTHWIDE CONFERENCE

By the time this issue of the Patriot reaches you, you will have received a folder announcing the Southwestern Reigonal Conference in Houston on May 17. The folder contains a partial list of sponsors.

Some sponsors have been disturbed because they did not find their names in this list and have written to ask "How come?"

We regret that the limitations of space permitted the listing of only one-third of the more than 500 sponsors of the conference. The names that were printed were selected at random, and we hope that if your name was not included you will not be offended. Before the Southwide Conference in November, we do plan to print the entire list.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find a list of the commissions for the Houston conference. If you do not plan to be present, perhaps you would like to have a part anyhow in the work of the Conference. You can do this by sending your suggestions for the work of one or more of these commissions to the SCEF, 822 Perdido St., New Orleans. We will pass them on to the commission chairmen.

(Registration blank. Please clip & mail.)

MRS. LULU B. WHITE, *Secretary*
Southwestern Regional Conference on Integration
2620 Tuam Avenue, Houston, Texas

Dear Mrs. White:
I plan to attend the Southwestern Regional Conference on Integration in Houston, Texas, Tuesday, May 17, 1955, YWCA 1320 Rusk Street.

Please reserve a place for me ☐ at lunch, 12:15 P.M.
Please reserve a place for me ☐ at dinner, 6:00 P.M.

NAME _____
(Please type or print)
ADDRESS _____
TITLE & ORGANIZATION _____
(For identification only)

Please send me _____ copies of the call.
I suggest you send a copy of the call to:
Name _____
Address _____
Name _____
Address _____
Name _____
Address _____